

Threat and Hazards Assessment Table: Disasters in **California**, U.S.A

NATURAL	TECHNOLOGICAL	MAN-MADE
<p>Resulting from acts of nature</p>	<p>Involves incidents or the failures of systems and structures</p>	<p>Caused by the international actions of an adversary</p>
<p>The effects of climate change are impacting the global environment. In California, climate change has exacerbated fires, droughts, flooding, and other natural disasters</p> <p>FIRES Since 2020, California has had 41 declared fire disasters to date. During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, 20 of California’s 58 counties were designated for individual and/or public assistance</p> <p>DROUGHTS The Glossary of Meteorology defines a drought as “a period of abnormally dry weather sufficiently prolonged for the lack of water to cause serious hydrologic imbalance in the affected area”. California has had only one declared drought disaster in state history: the California Drought (EM-3023-CA) of January 1977</p> <p>FLOODING FEMA defines flooding as “a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of 2 or more acres of normally dry land area or of 2 or more properties from overflow of inland or tidal waters, unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source, mudslides, or collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a body of water”. Since the 21st century, California has had six food declared disasters, all of which occurred after 2010</p> <p>EARTHQUAKES The USGS reports that California and Alaska have the most earthquakes in the country, with California having “more earthquakes that cause damage than any other state”. California’s Department of Conservation reported that the state has had seven significant earthquakes since the 2000s, of which five were declared disasters by FEMA</p> <p>EPIDEMIC/PANDEMIC The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of</p>	<p>TRANSPORTATION California is home to dozens of interstate highways, and the U.S. Department of Transportation reports that the state had the most interstate vehicle miles traveled in the country (84.7 billion miles). Vehicular accidents are a leading cause of death and injury in the U.S., and crashes along major highways can be a major emergency issue. As such, it is critical to enact and practice road safety as a means of reducing vehicular-related emergencies</p> <p>HAZARDOUS WASTE and CONTAMINATION California currently has 114 Superfund sites, which are contaminated sites in which the EPA has federal authority to clean and manage. Hazardous waste contamination is a major public health concern, and the potential reach of widespread contamination could affect large populations of people and constitute a major disaster</p>	<p>CYBER ATTACKS California’s data security breaches are monitored by the state’s Department of Justice, in the Office of the Attorney General. The breaches occur across myriad industries; unfortunately, a number of these breaches include major health organizations, including California Correctional Health Care Services, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and Kaiser Health Plan. The protected data illegally obtained in these breaches puts all involved within these systems at risk</p> <p>GUN VIOLENCE California has a number of gun safety laws in place as a means of protecting its residents. These regulations include a legal gun ownership age of 21, the requirement of a Firearm Safety Certificate, and a ban on assault weapons. Unfortunately, the state has already witnessed three mass shootings in January 2023 alone (Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay, and Oakland), leading to at least 19 lives lost and additional injuries. Without stricter federal laws and policies around firearms, gun violence will continue to be a major source of emergency, injury, and death throughout California and the United States</p>

the most disruptive biological disasters in recent memory. As the most populated state in the U.S., California was a major area of concern during the onset of the pandemic regarding containment and spread. Fortunately, according to the CDC, at least 85% of Californians have received at least one dose of the vaccine		
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SOURCES:

- [Big California Earthquakes](#), California Department of Conservation
- [COVID Data Tracker](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- [Declared Disasters](#), Federal Emergency Management Agency
- [National Priorities List and Superfund Alternative Approach Sites \(California\)](#), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- [New FHWA Report Reveals States with the Busiest Highways](#), U.S. Department of Transportation
- [What's Behind California's Surge of Large Fires?](#) NASA Earth Observatory
- [What is Meant by the Term Drought?](#) National Weather Service
- [Which State has the Most Earthquakes that Cause Damage? Which State has the Most Earthquakes \(not human-induced\)?](#) United States Geological Survey